CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A process for managing business, technical and operational data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the Internet comprising the steps of:

providing a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a registered user or not;

determining whether a guest is a registered user from input by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select "Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web userid/password that enables them to register for any of global procurement applications available under the supplier portal;

when a guest obtains a Web userid/password in GR, storing guest information in a GR data store;

determining whether any applications have been authorized for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted applications in a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle;

accessing information from the GR data store to automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications get approved;

determining whether approval is needed for a requested application and, if so, sending a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator; and

storing links to all applications for which the guest is approved, these

25	links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home page which
26	displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest has been
27	registered and authorized.
1	2. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as
2	recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
3	defining 1 to n level approval cycles a user must go through to get
4	authorized to access an application;
5	logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's
6	usereid/password once for each session, as long as applications requested by
7	the guest are in a same realm; and
8	invoking by a logged in guest any of their approved applications by
9	simply clicking the link to the desired application in the guest's customized
10	home page.
1	3. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as
	recited in claim 2, wherein the approval cycles are customizable for each
2	
3	application.
1	4. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as
2	recited in claim 2, wherein the approval cycles are defined for a section of an
3	application, providing a finer level of access control.
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1	5. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as
2	recited in claim 2, wherein application specific registration fields are defined
3	so that a registration form, unique to an application, is displayed when a user

requests access to an application.

1	6. The process for managing business, technical and operational data as
2	recited in claim 2, wherein guests may bookmark applications for later access
3	further comprising the step of prompting by an application a guest to enter
4	their userid/password for authentication against data stored in the GR data
5	store when the application is accessed using a bookmark.
1	7. A data processing system for managing business, technical and operational
2	data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the
3	Internet comprising:
4	a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical
5	User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a
6	registered user or not;
7	means for determining whether a guest is a registered user from input
8	by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select
9	"Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web
10	userid/password that enables them to register for any of global procurement
11	applications available under the supplier portal;
12	a GR data store storing guest information when a guest obtains a Web
13	userid/password;
14	a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a
15	PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle;
16	means for determining whether any applications have been authorized
17	for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted
18	applications in the PCR;
19	means for accessing information from the GR data store to
20	automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page
21	being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications
22	get approved;
23	means for determining whether approval is needed for a requested

24	application and, if so, sending a request for approval to the application
25	administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator; and
26	means for storing links to all applications for which the guest is
27	approved, these links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home
28	page which displays a list of links to all of the applications for which the guest
29	has been registered and authorized.